0-19 Healthy Child Service
Suffolk County Council
Allington Clinic
427 Woodbridge Road
Ipswich, IP4 4ER
Tel: 0345 607 8866

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Measuring the height and weight of children in Year 6.

Across England, children in Reception and Year 6 will have their height and weight measured by the School Nursing Team as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. Your child's class will be taking part in this year's programme. These measurements are taken because we want to understand how children are growing across the county and to help children be as healthy as they can possibly be.

The checks are carried out by trained healthcare providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. As well as your child's weight and height, we will also record their name, sex, address, postcode, ethnicity and date of birth. We will enter the results on your child's confidential Child Health Record and send you the results if a concern is raised for your child within 6 weeks of measurement.

In Suffolk, over 92% of parents agree for their child to take part in the programme, and we hope you will agree too. If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything.

The data collected is also used to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. The overall programme results will be submitted for national analysis and publication. All information and results will be treated confidentially, and no child's height or weight measurements will be given to school staff or to other children.

We hope you will agree that understanding a child's weight is important because it can affect their health. We also recognise that healthy weight is a complex issue, so we are working closely with Suffolk Healthy Living Service to offer support to families across Suffolk where this may be helpful. Information from the National Child Measurement Programme will be shared with the service, and parents may be contacted to offer additional support if needed.

If you do not want your child to take part in this year's National Child Measurement Programme, you can opt out within 14 days of receiving this letter. To opt out, https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/childrens-health/national-child-measurement-programme-and-hearing-and-vision, call 0345 607 8866, or scan the QR code. You can also use the QR code to share any health concerns or additional information with the team. Your child will not be weighed or measured if you do not want them to take part.

Yours faithfully,

Stuart Keeble
Executive Director of Public Health,
Communities and Public Safety.

Sarah Jane Smedmor
Executive Director for Children
and Young People Services.

Appendix A – The information we collect and what it is used for is listed below:

- your child's date of measurement, sex and date of birth are used to calculate your child's weight category
- your child's name, date of birth and NHS Number are used to link your child's measurements in Reception and Year 6. Other data sets held by NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care may also be linked, where lawful, to add information from health and education records. This helps us understand how and why children's weight is changing, how this affects children's health and education, and how the care children receive can be improved. This includes your child's health data relating to:
- their birth, hospital care (including time in hospital and out-patient appointments and diagnosis of medical conditions)
- mental health
- social care
- primary care, including all healthcare outside hospital, such as GP and dental appointments
- public health, including data relating to the prevention of ill health, such as immunisation records
- records showing when and why people pass away
- medical conditions, such as cancer and diabetes
- health, lifestyle and wellbeing surveys that your child has participated in
- your child's ethnicity and address are used to help understand some of the reasons for the difference and changes in child weight across England

Appendix B – How the data is used

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Suffolk County Council. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS child health information database and share it with their GP.

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us to NHS England. NHS England is responsible for collecting data and information about health and care so that this can be used to monitor and improve the care provided to people across England.

The information collected about your child will also be shared by NHS England with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID focuses on improving the nation's health so that everyone can expect to live more of life in good health, and on levelling up health disparities to break the link between background and prospects for a healthy life.

Both NHS England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI). This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS England or the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (DHSC) that identifies your child. NHS England uses the data to produce National Child Measurement Programme statistics reports showing trends at national and local community level.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme may also be shared by NHS England with other organisations, such as universities. This is to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. This information cannot be used to identify your child, and NHS England only ever shares information for research through formal assurance and approvals processes, seeking advice from experts as necessary. For further information, please visit:

National Child Measurement Programme: privacy notice - GOV.UK
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-privacy-notice